

Message Text

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ORIGIN HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-06 L-03 CA-01

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DRAFTED BY HEW/OIA:DEHOHMAN:REE

APPROVED BY EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 277397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY CALIFANO'S VISIT TO ITALY

REF: STATE 275191

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REVISED HEW PRESS RELEASE
RE SIGNING OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOL.
PLEASE CONFIRM SIGNING TO HEW (HOHMAN) BY TELEPHONE SO
RELEASE CAN BE ISSUED NOV. 22.

2. BEGIN TEXT. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES AND
ITALY TODAY SIGNED AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOL TO THE
U.S.-ITALY SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED IN
1973. THIS ACTION MOVES THE TWO NATIONS CLOSER TO PROVID-
ING COORDINATED SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION FOR PERSONS
WHO HAVE WORKED IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

THE PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED IN ROME BY JOSEPH A. CALIFANO, JR.,
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SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, AND TINA
ANSELM, MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

UNDERCURRENT LAW, UNITED STATES CITIZENS WORKING IN
ITALY FOR AMERICAN FIRMS PAY SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES TO
BOTH COUNTRIES. YET, WHEN THEY RETIRE, THEY MAY NOT HAVE
SUFFICIENT CREDITS TO QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS UNDER EITHER

OR BOTH SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEMS. THE 1973 AGREEMENT WOULD PERMIT WORKERS TO COMBINE CREDITS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES TO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN EITHER OR BOTH. IN ADDITION, IT PROVIDES THAT IN THE FUTURE WORKERS EMPLOYED AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD BE COVERED BY ONLY ONE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

AT PRESENT, A WORKER WHO RETIRES WITH FIVE YEARS OF CREDIT UNDER THE U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND 10 YEARS OF CREDIT UNDER THE ITALIAN SYSTEM, QUALIFIES UNDER NEITHER. UNDER THE COORDINATION AGREEMENT, HE WOULD QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS UNDER BOTH SYSTEMS, WITH THE U.S. AND ITALIAN SYSTEMS PAYING ONE-THIRD AND TWO-THIRDS, RESPECTIVELY.

LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE UNITED STATES TO ENTER INTO BILATERAL SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENTS HAS PASSED BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS AS PART OF H.R. 9346, THE SOCIAL SECURITY FINANCING AMENDMENTS OF 1977, WHICH IS NOW AWAITING CLEARANCE BY A HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY HAS ALREADY TAKEN THE STEPS NECESSARY TO PUT THE AGREEMENT INTO EFFECT. END TEXT. VANCE

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Disposition Event:
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